

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are all the claims pending in the Application. By this Amendment, in order to provide more varied protection, Applicant adds claims 9-12. Claims 9-12 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency on claim 1.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the courteous telephone interview on February 3, 2004. An Examiner's Initiated Interview Summary (PTOL-413B) was mailed on February 5, 2004. The PTOL-413B does not require the Applicant to file a Statement of Substance of the Interview. In order to resolve the ambiguities noted by the Examiner, Applicant editorially amends claims 2-5. The amendments to claims 2-5 were made for reasons of precision of language and consistency, and do not narrow the literal scope of the claims and thus do not implicate an estoppel in the application of the doctrine of equivalents.

In view of the clarified ambiguities, allowance of this application is now believed to be in order. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114
U.S. Application No.: 10/058,804

Attorney Docket No.: Q68166

Entry and consideration of this Amendment are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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